

**The 1st regular session of the 126th South Carolina General Assembly
convened on Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

Governor

Governor of South Carolina is Henry McMaster (R – Richland) since January 24, 2017. His current term ends on January 13, 2027.

[FY26 Executive Budget Book - FINAL WEB VERSION.pdf](#)

The South Carolina Legislature is divided into two parts called bodies (The House of Representatives and the Senate) and combined the bodies form the General Assembly.

House of Representatives

- Speaker of the House is Murrell Smith (R – Sumter) since May 12, 2022
- Speaker Pro Tempore – Tommy Pope (R – York)
- Majority Leader is Davy Hiott (R–Pickens)
- Minority Leader is Todd Rutherford (D– Richland)
- 124 seats
- 2 year terms (next election Tuesday, November 3, 2026)
- Currently there are Republicans (88); Democrats (36); (March 25, 2025 - Courtney Waters (D) elected to SC House District 113)
- Qualifications: qualified to vote in state elections; 21 years of age; a resident of the district in which he/she seeks to represent; has not been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony or voter fraud or bribery unless 15 years has elapsed since time was served.

Senate

- President of the Senate is Thomas Alexander (R – Oconee) since December 6, 2021
- Majority Leader is Shane Massey (R – Edgefield)
- Minority Leader is Brad Hutto (D – Orangeburg)
- 46 senators
- 4 year terms (next election November 7, 2028)
- Currently there are - Republicans (34); Democrats (12) **NOTE:** 13 new members (9 Republicans/4 Democrats)
- Qualifications: qualified to vote in state elections; 25 years of age; a resident of the district in which he/she seeks to represent; has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony or voter fraud or bribery unless 15 years has elapsed since time was served.

126th Session of the South Carolina General Assembly - 1st Regular Session (2025)

- Members of the bodies convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 (second Tuesday in January)
- This is the first year of a two-year session
- Legislation not enacted during the 2025 session will hold its place in the legislative process and carry over to the 2026 session
- **RULES DELETED:** The crossover deadline rule was deleted January 31, 2025 by the House of Representatives and December 4, 2024 by the Senate.
- Statutory Sine Die date – Thursday, May 8, 2025 (second Thursday in May) unless an extension is agreed to by a two-thirds vote of both bodies. Normally, the House and Senate meet in statewide session on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and for local matters on Friday. The Governor may call the General Assembly into a special session if necessary, beyond the regular session.

SCSFA House Legislation

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Position	Description	Committee Assignment	Status
H.3021	Reps. Bradley et. al.		Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act	Referred To Labor, Commerce, and Industry	Passed the House and Sent to the Senate → <i>Referred to Senate Judiciary</i>
H.3093	Rep. Moss		Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3113	Rep. Dillard et al.		Relating to Infant Safe Havens, so as to Allow for the use of Newborn Safety Devices, and for Other Purposes	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3124	Reps. Pope et. al.		Create Penalties for Intentional or Unintentional Exposure to Fentanyl of First Responders	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3126	Rep. Pope		Creation of the South Carolina Department of Law Enforcement and Public Safety	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3163	Rep. Mark Smith		Expand Workers' Comp Coverage to Include Strokes for Firefighters	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	The Bill, as Amended, was Read a Third Time and Sent to the Senate → <i>The Bill was Introduced in the Senate and Referred to Senate Judiciary</i>
H.3188	Rep. Long		Firefighter Training Reimbursement	Referred To Ways and Means	Heard in a House Ways and Means Subcommittee on March 26 → <i>Adjourned Debate</i>
H.3221	Rep. Ballentine		Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3258	Reps. Pope et. al.		Requires Department of Education to Install Mobile Panic Alert Systems in All Public Schools	Referred to Education and Public Works	The Bill, as Amended, was Read a Third Time and Sent to the Senate → <i>The Bill, as Amended, was Introduced in the Senate and Referred to</i>

					<i>Senate Education</i>
H.3259	Rep. Pope		First Responder Automobile Insurance Premiums	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	Passed the House and Sent to the Senate Where it was Referred to Senate LCI → <i>The Bill Passed Favorably to the Senate Floor and Placed on the Calendar</i>
H.3261	Reps. Pope and Gilliam		Workers' Comp to Include Coverage for PTSD for First Responders	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3276	Reps. Pope et. al.		South Carolina Hands Free Act	Referred to Judiciary	The Bill was Passed by the House and Taken Up in the Senate → <i>The Bill was Read a Third Time and Returned to the House with Amendments - House Concurred in Senate Amendment and Enrolled. Ratified on 5/8/25 and Signed by the Governor 5/12/25.</i>
H.3281	Reps. McCravy et. al.		Fallen First Responders Advocate Position	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3284	Rep. Long		Include Tow Truck Operators as Emergency Scene Management Personnel	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3289	Rep. J.L. Johnson		Include 911 Operators as “First Responders”	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3378	Rep. Burns et al.		Exempt All Property from Taxation and Provide Dollar-for-Dollar Reimbursement to Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3392	Rep. Moss		Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder or Healthcare Worker	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3410	Rep. Hardee		Property (Vehicle) Tax exemption for Former First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3416	Rep. Kilmartin		Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Ways and Means	

H.3437	Reps. Pope et. al.		Return to Work (Critical Need) for Law Enforcement	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3461	Rep. Lawson		Excludes First Responder Wages from SC Gross Income	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3533	Reps. Pope and Gilliam		Enhanced Penalties for Assaulting a First Responder in the Discharge of their Official Duties	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3535	Reps. Wooten et. al.		Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act	Referred To Judiciary	Heard by Criminal Laws Subcommittee Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → <i>Meeting Adjourned Prior to Discussion of the Bill</i>
H.3536	Rep. Taylor		South Carolina Hands Free Act	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3542	Rep. Williams		Return to Work - Lifts the \$10,000 earnings limitation in both the PORS and SCRS if an individual retires before January 2, 2026	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3550	Rep. Williams		Use of Mounted Red Lights on Wreckers	Referred To Education and Public Works	
H.3797	Reps. Kilmartin and Beach		The State Fire Marshal Shall Promulgate Regulations To Test Firefighters Annually For The Presence Of Perfluoroalkyl And Polyfluoroalkyl In Their Bloodstreams.	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3803	Rep. Hart		Limit On Annual Property Tax Millage Increases Imposed By Political Subdivisions	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3806	Reps. Hart and Henderson-Meyers		Driving While Using Wireless Communication Devices	Referred To Judiciary	
H.3860	Reps. Oremus et. al.		Opioid Overdose Prevention By Requiring First Responder Stations To Maintain A Supply Of Opioid Antidote Medication At All Times.	Referred To Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs	
H.3907	Reps. Cox et. al.		“Honor our First Responders Act”	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.3908	Reps. Bernstein et. al.		Multifamily Dwelling Safety Act - Minimum Standards For Balcony Railings That Are Primarily Constructed Of Wood And Are Located In Multifamily Dwellings	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	

H.3946	Reps. McCabe et. al.		Exemptions From Contractor Licensing Requirements	Referred to Labor, Commerce and Industry	
H.3997	Reps. B.L. Cox et al.		<p>First Responders - Relating To Income Tax Deductions For First Responders, So As To Include County And Municipal Public Works Employees Who May Be Deployed In Emergencies</p> <p>Relating To Property Tax Exemptions, So As To Include The Surviving Spouses Of County And Municipal Public Works Employees Killed While Deployed In Emergencies</p> <p>Relating To The Definition Of "First Responder" For Purposes Of Receiving Workers' Compensation Award Payments By The State Accident Fund, So As To Include County And Municipal Public Works Employees Who May Be Deployed In Emergencies</p>	Referred To Ways and Means	
H.4005	Reps. Henderson-Meyers et. al.		Driving Under the Influence	Referred To Judiciary	
H.4013	Reps. J.E. Johnson et. al.		Automated License Plate Readers	Referred To Education and Public Works	
H.4216	Reps. Bannister et. al.		This bill as amended changes SC individual income tax structure beginning in tax year 2026. The bill imposes a tax rate of 1.99 percent on taxable income up to \$30,000 and 5.39 percent on \$30,000 and over, eliminates the federal standard and itemized deductions, and allows taxpayers with lower federal AGI to claim a new SCIAD. The bill also provides that the tax rate will be reduced annually beginning in tax year 2027 until the tax is eliminated if projected individual income tax revenue, less amounts credited to the Trust Fund for Tax Relief, is projected to grow	Referred to Ways and Means	<p>Passed by the House and Sent to the Senate →</p> <p><i>Referred to Senate Finance</i></p>

			by at least 5 percent in the following fiscal year.		
H.4249	Rep. Erickson		Relating To The Definitions Of Emergency Scene Management, So As To Make Technical Changes, Provide Drivers Shall Ensure Their Vehicles Are Kept Under Control When Approaching Or Passing Other Motor Vehicles Stopped On Or Near The Right Of Way Of Streets Or Highways, To Provide Persons Driving Vehicles Approaching Other Stationary Vehicles Displaying Flashing Hazard Lights Shall Reduce Their Speed, Yield The Right Of Way, And Maintain Safe Speeds When Changing Lanes Is Unsafe, And To Provide Penalties.	Referred to Education and Public Works	Passed by the House, Sent to the Senate, Introduced and Read for the First Time in the Senate → Referred to Senate Transportation Committee
H.4252	Rep. T. Moore		Relating To The Definition Of The Term "Authorized Emergency Vehicles," So As To Add Vehicles Transporting Individuals Engaged In Emergency Activities Where The Occupants Belong To An Emergency Management Office To The List Of Vehicles Covered By This Section.	Referred to Education and Public Works	
H.4265	Reps. McGinnis et. al.		Relating To Penalties For Fires On Certain Lands, So As To Increase The Penalties For Violations Of Chapter 35, Title 48; And By Repealing Section 48-35-55 Relating To Fire Regulation Exemptions	Referred to Judiciary	Heard in Criminal Laws Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 → Adjourned Debate
H.4336	Reps. Hartnett et. al.		Relating To Assault And Battery Offenses, So As To Provide That Assault And Battery Of A High And Aggravated Nature Occurs When A Person Injures A Federal, State, Or Local Law Enforcement Officer Or Corrections Officer; A Healthcare Professional, Healthcare Worker, Or An Emergency Response Employee; Or An Educational Professional During Or Because Of The Person's Official Duties.	Referred to Judiciary	

H.4337	Reps. W. Newton and Bannister		Grant Subpoena Powers To The Legislative Audit Council; By Amending Section 2-15-40, Relating To The Qualifications For The Director Of The Legislative Audit Council, So As To Expand The Prerequisites For Holding The Position Of Director, Among Other Changes; By Amending Section 2-15-61, Relating To Access To Agency Records, So As To Expand The Legislative Audit Council's Access To Records And Facilities Upon Request And To Provide Penalties For Failing To Comply; And By Amending Section 2-15-120, Relating To The Confidentiality Of Records, So As To Further Define Which Records Are Considered Confidential And To Revise The Definition Of "Records."	Referred to Judiciary	Passed by the House and Sent to the Senate → <i>Referred to Senate Finance</i>
H.4338	Reps. Sanders et. al.		Building Codes	Referred to Labor Commerce and Industry	
H.4399	Reps. Holman et. al.		First Responder Wellness Exams: Adding Section 23-9-200 So As To Provide The State Fire Marshal Shall Require All Firefighters Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; By Amending Section 44-61-80 , Relating To Emergency Medical Technician Certificates, So As To Require Emergency Medical Technicians Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations; And By Adding Section 23-23-57 So As To Provide All Law Enforcement Officers Must Complete Successfully Annual Wellness Examinations.	Referred to Judiciary	
H.4458	Rep. Pace		Amending Section 12-6-510 , Relating To The Individual	Referred to Ways and Means	

			Income Tax, So As To Reduce The Top Marginal Rate To Five Percent.		
H.4517	Rep. White		Adding Section 11-1-130 So As To Provide That Appropriations Bills Or Amendments May Not Include Earmarked Funds Designated For Specific Projects Or Entities Outside The Core Budgetary Process.	Referred to Ways and Means	
H.4539	Reps. McGinnis et. al.		Penalties for Illegal Fires	Referred to Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs	

SCSFA Senate Legislation

Bill #	Sponsor(s)	Position	Description	Committee Assignment	Status
S.52	Senators Davis et. al.		Driving Under The Influence - Amend the Penalty Provisions to Permit Sentences of Both Fines And Incarceration and to Require Convicted Persons to Attend DUI Victim Impact Panels	Referred To Judiciary	Heard By Full Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 → <i>Carried Over</i>
S.60	Senator Bennett and Blackmon		Securing Deposits of Funds by Local Entities	Referred To Finance	
S.64	Senator Hembree		Retirement Income Tax Deduction for First Responders	Referred To Finance	
S.90	Senator Young		Hands Free Act	Referred To Transportation	
S.101	Senator Gambrell		This bill amends South Carolina's firefighter registration law to clarify and update several definitions and requirements. The bill mandates that the Office of the State Fire Marshal collect specific personal information about each firefighter, including their full name, date of birth, social security number, a valid driver's license number, employer, and employment date. The bill provides detailed definitions for key terms like "fire department," "firefighter," and "employer,"	Referred To Labor, Commerce and Industry	Passed by Both Bodies → <i>The Senate Concurred in the House Amendments and the Bill was Enrolled for Ratification 5/6/25. Signed by the Governor 5/12/25.</i>

			specifying that a fire department must have a Public Protection Classification rating, be dispatched by a 911 center, be verified by the State Fire Marshal's Office, and maintain a roster with both the State Fire Marshal and the State Firefighters' Association. It requires that firefighters who work for multiple fire departments be registered by each fire department.		
S.102	Senators Gambrell and Massey		Millage Rate Increase Limitations	Referred To Finance	The Bill Passed by the Senate and Sent to the House → <i>The Bill was Referred to House Ways and Means</i>
S.107	Senator Rice		Retirement Earnings Limitation - the earnings limitation is equal to the annual retirement earnings test exempt lower amount as set by the Social Security Administration, the amount of which for 2024 was \$22,320.	Referred To Finance	
S.119	Senator Adams		Return to Work - Lifts the \$10,000 earnings limitation in both the PORS and SCRS if an individual is separated from employment for 90 days	Referred To Finance	
S.121	Senator Garrett		Relating to Safe Haven for Abandoned Babies, so as to Provide that the Safe Haven Must Offer the Person Leaving the Infant Information Prepared by the Department Concerning the Legal Effect of Leaving the Infant with the Safe Haven	Referred To Family and Veterans' Services	Passed by the Senate and Sent to the House 5/8/25
S.144	Senator Devine		Firefighter Emergency Transportation Exemption	Referred To Medical Affairs	
S.170	Senator Hembree et.al.		Smoke Evacuation System	Referred To Medical Affairs	Passed the Senate and Sent to the House → <i>Referred to the House Committee on Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs</i>
S.175	Senator Zell		Creates 25 foot buffer for law enforcement	Referred To Judiciary	
S.211	Senators Massey and		Tax Exemption for Volunteer	Referred to	

	Zell		Firefighters	Finance	
S.297	Senator Turner		Employer and Employee Contribution Rates Under SCRS and PORS	Referred To Finance	
S.331	Senator Adams		Infant Safe Havens - Use of Newborn Safety Devices and Other Purposes	Referred To Family and Veterans' Services	
S.346	Senator Alexander		Enhanced Penalties for Assault on Firefighter and Health Professionals	Referred to Judiciary	Heard By Full Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 → Reported Out Favorably to Senate Floor as Amended and Placed on the Senate Calendar
S.422	Senators Ott and Gambrell		State Board of Pyrotechnic Safety Reconfiguration	Referred to Labor, Commerce, and Industry	Scheduled To Be Heard By Senate LCI Subcommittee April 16 At 12 noon In Room 209 Gressette → Bill was removed from the Agenda.

FY25-26 Appropriations Bill

H 4025	Ways and Means Committee		<p>Members of the House passed their version of the \$14 billion FY25-26 Appropriations Bill on Wednesday, March 13, 2025. The House Version of the Budget Bill is Posted at:</p> <p>2025-26 General Appropriations Bill - House of Representatives and Senate</p>	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025	<p>Passed by the Senate as Amended and Returned to the House. The House Non-concurred in the Senate Amendments and a Conference Committee was appointed:</p> <p>House Conferees: Bannister Hewitt Stavrinakis</p> <p>Senate Conferees: Peeler Jackson Alexander</p> <p>→ Conference Committee Meeting Scheduled for 12:30 pm on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.</p>
H4026	Ways and Means Committee		Members of the House passed their version of the FY25-26 Capital Reserve Fund Joint	Introduced, Read First Time, Placed	<i>Passed by the Senate as Amended and Returned to the House</i>

			<p>Resolution on Wednesday. The House Version of the Capital Reserve Fund Joint Resolution is Posted at:</p> <p>FY 2025-2026 South Carolina Capital Reserve Fund- House and Senate</p>	<p>on Calendar Without Reference February 20, 2025</p>	<p>→ <i>House Concurred in Senate Amendments and Ratified 5/8/2025. Signed by the Governor 5/12/25.</i></p>
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